

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 180720Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

UNCLAS MOSCOW 7787

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AFSP, UR
SUBJECT: EXPANDED ELECTRICAL SERVICE FOR EMBASSY

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE US WITH EXPANDED ELECTRICAL SERVICE. LETTER DATED MAY 14 SIGNED BY THE AMBASSADOR WAS SENT TO AMBASSADOR KUZNETSOV, UPDK DIRECTOR:

QTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE EMBASSY'S PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE ELECTRICAL SUPPLY. THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTION HAS BEEN UNDERScoreD BY THREE POWER FAILURES SUFFERED IN THE CHANCERY WITHIN THE PAST 10 DAYS. I AM, OF COURSE, SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AT THE FIRE DANGER INHERENT IN A SITUATION OF CONTINUING OVERLOADS AND POWER PANEL FAILURES.

I APPRECIATED YOUR EARLIER EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT AND MENTION THE POWER FAILURES OF THE PAST FEW DAYS BY WAY OF CONFIRMING THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM. SINCE YOU NOTED THAT THE DELAY, FOLLOWING THE EMBASSY'S COMMITMENT TO PROCEED GIVEN IN MR. TRACY'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1975, HAS ARISEN BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN DESIGN AND PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE UPDK, I AM ALSO CALLING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNQTE

2. AS A FOLLOW-UP ADMIN COUNSELOR PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO Y. ANTIPOV, USA DIVISION, MFA, ON MAY 17:

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THE EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE CONTINUING AND SERIOUS PROBLEM OF ELECTRIC POWER FAILURES AT THE CHANCERY BUILDING AT 19/23 CHAIKOVSKY ST. IN MOSCOW. NOTWITHSTANDING EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN MID 1975 AND A FORMAL WRITTEN EMBASSY COMMITMENT TO UPDK ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1975, SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH PROJECTS HAVE NOT YET INDICATED WHEN THE INSTALLATION OF BADLY NEEDED ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL SERVICE CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.

THE URGENCY OF THE NEED HAS BEEN UNDERScoreD BY THREE POWER FAILURES OCCURRING IN RECENT DAYS. LAST SUMMER THERE OCCURRED NOT ONLY NUMEROUS INTERNAL POWER BOARD FAILURES, BUT ALSO POWER LOSSES AT THE SUBSTATION WHICH SERVICES OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE AREA AS WELL AS THE EMBASSY. THE FIRE DANGER INHERENT IN OVERLOAD SITUATIONS IS CLEAR.

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AT LEAST A PARTIAL REASON FOR THE DELAY IS WORK OVERLOAD IN MOSCOW ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGN AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WORK AND ANY NECESSARY SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION CAN BE ACCELERATED, GIVEN THE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY OF ADDITIONAL FAILURES. IN GENERAL IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY A CITY THE SIZE OF MOSCOW WITH IMPRESSIVE CAPABILITIES FOR MUNICIPAL WORKS CANNOT PROMPTLY RESOLVE A PROBLEM OF THIS NATURE. UNQTE

3. BY REDUCING THE USE OF AIR CONDITIONING AND OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND BY REBALANCING THE EMBASSY'S ELECTRICAL LOAD ON THE INCOMING SERVICE CIRCUITS, WE HAVE MANAGED TO AVOID SO FAR THIS YEAR ALL BUT MINOR POWER FAILURES. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY'S OVERALL POWER SUPPLY REMAINS PRECARIOUS AND CANNOT BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN THE MAIN ELECTRICAL SERVICE. BREMENT

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